FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 OCTOBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian F-4 was downed by antiaircraft fire and 14 civilians were killed in the shelling of Basra and the districts of Halabjah and Badrah, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses. A military spokesman cited by INA emphasized the "absurdity" of Iranian claims that an Iraqi plane was downed during raids on oil facilities at Khorramshahr.

In other action, Iranian warplanes bombed industrial installations in Al-Kut, IRNA reported citing a Joint Staff announcement which also noted that all aircraft returned safely to base. Military and economic facilities in Basra were subjected to heavy artillery fire in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on residential areas of Bakhtaran and Khuzestan, IRNA reported.

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that Iran's "new war strategy" stresses "more extensive and sustained operations," in remarks cited by Tehran radio. Rafsanjani was addressing a meeting to review progress in the mobilization campaign to dispatch 100,000 troops to the fronts during the week of 26 November.

Lebanon

In the wake of a Beirut radio report that President Amin al-Jumayyil "attaches great importance" to a summit with Syria, press sources cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed that Syria's conditions for a summit include Lebanon's official condemnation of the British stand and of Yasir 'Arafat's policy.

In a "gesture of good will," Amal released 26 Palestinian detainees to a Syrian military observer, Beirut radio reported. However, according to Voice of Lebanon radio, "violent fighting" continued in the Burj al-Barajinah Camp area south of Beirut.

OPEC

The acting Saudi oil minister called for an "immediate" meeting of the pricing committee in order to begin studying ways to implement the 17 October Saudi proposal to raise the benchmark price to $18 per barrel, SPA reported.

Sudan

The coodinator of UN emergency operations in Khartoum was declared persona non grata for violating diplomatic norms by contacting the rebels on the matter of transporting relief supplies, according to a SUNA report.

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PDPA, Toilers' Organization Declare Unity

LD302027 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Joint statement on declaration of unity between the PDPA and the Vanguard Organization of Afghanistan's Toilers; read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the process of the evolution of the April Revolution and the revolutionary transformation in the country, in the condition where our people are continuing their revolutionary work and struggle to overcome backwardness, poverty, hunger, illness, and illiteracy seeking to build a democratic, properous and humane society under the leadership of the PDPA, the savage counterrevolutionaries, including the regional and internal reaction, have launched a criminal war against our country on the order of international imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, and are intensifying this war by spending millions of dollars to arm the bandits with deadly weapons and spread propaganda and psychological warfare. They organize plundering, killing, and destruction so as to eliminate our country's material and moral culture and human forces.

The PDPA and Vanguard Organization of Afghanistan's Toilers believe that at this sensitive and historical moment the important and basic need of all the toiling people of Afghanistan is the unity of all democratic, national, and peace-loving forces. At its center lies the unity of all revolutionaries, the followers of the progressive ideology of our time who are loyal to proletarian internationalism, headed by the great Soviet country, this firm friend and honest defender of our country's comprehensive progress.

In the present situation, in order to give a positive response to the needs of the people; to mobilize the masses for the further decisive defense of the revolution and its outcome; to completely crush the counterrevolutionaries and decisively foil the interference and conspiracies of regional reaction, Chinese hegemonism, and international imperialism; to establish nationwide, lasting peace and the complete victory of the national and democratic April Revolution, the principled and organic unity of all the revolutionary forces and committed organizations with the PDPA has become a vital and urgent need. [passage omitted]

Both sides demand from their revolutionary cofighter friends that they welcome, in firm unity with their revolutionary work and struggle, this principled and important step for the further consolidation of the entrenchment of the PDPA, so as to mobilize the masses for the complete elimination of the nests of the internal counterrevolution, to foil the shameful interference and sinister conspiracies by regional aggression and its imperialist allies, to safeguard nationwide peace in the country, and build a new and democratic society.

The PDPA and Vanguard Organization of Afghanistan's Toilers should, with equal rights and obligations, maintain the unity of their combatant party — the PDPA — as most dear to them and continue to wage uncompromising struggle against any type of local, regional, verbal, or fractional deviations. They should continue their revolutionary work and struggle.

Be victorious and consolidate the unity of the PDPA.

Forward toward the unity of all the national and democratic forces around the PDPA.

Let peace be victorious in our revolutionary and proud country, the DRA.

Death to reaction and imperialism, these enemies of peace and the tranquility of mankind.

May the unshakable Afghan-Soviet friendship be eternal.

'Counterrevolutionaries' Crushed in Ghowr

LD301655 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] The courageous Armed Forces of the country have crushed a group of counterrevolutionaries belonging to the so-called Eslami band in the surroundings of Shahrak District, Ghowr Province.

The BIA reported that as a result of the successful operation carried out in order to clear the environs of Shahrak District, a group of the counterrevolutionaries who had been disrupting the peaceful life of the working people in this region, were crushed in the village of (Karikot-e Nawok) and their six various U.S.- and Chinese-made weapons and a quantity of ammunition were seized by the Armed Forces.

The report adds that this is the 11th group of counterrevolutionaries belonging to various bands of rebels that have been crushed, with the cooperation of our compatriots, by the Armed Forces in recent weeks in the surroundings of Nangarhar, Badghis, Samangan, and Ghowr Provinces. This indicates that our working compatriots, alongside the Armed Forces, are fulfilling their worthy and patriotic role and that they are actively fighting to crush the remnants of the counterrevolutionaries.

Sema-Led Nagaland Cabinet Sworn in 29 Oct

BK300408 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Excerpt] In Nagaland, a 16-member Congress-I ministry headed by Mr Hokishe Sema was sworn in in Kohima last night. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by the state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, at a function in Raj Bhavan [governor's house]. There are 11 Cabinet ministers and 5 ministers of state. Earlier, the state Congress-I legislature party unanimously elected Mr Sema as leader.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Hungary

LD301827 Budapest MTI in English 1714 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] New Delhi, October 30 (MTI) — The 6th session of the Hungarian-Indian joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation ended in New Delhi Thursday with the signing of a protocol. The delegations to the talks, headed by Istvan Hetenyi, Hungarian minister of finance, and Vengal Rao, Indian minister of industry, assessed the state of bilateral economic and commercial relations, and marked out ways for expanding cooperation, mainly in energetics, transport, telecommunications and the food industry through production cooperation between companies and joint ventures.

Istvan Hetenyi and Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Indian minister of finance, signed an agreement on eliminating double taxation. The Hungarian finance minister met Indian Vice-President Ramaswamy Venkataraman; Shiv Shankar, minister of commerce; Vasant Sathe, minister of energy; and Madhav Rao Scindia, state minister for railways.

Group Set Up To Study Chemical Warfare

BK301137 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Oct 86 p 9

[Excerpts] New Delhi, October 20 — The ministry of defence has set up a special cell to prepare systematically to combat chemical weapons deployed in future wars by any neighbouring country.

According to sources, the cell was set up over six months ago after persisting concern in the armed services that the field of chemical-biological warfare had been "neglected" by the defence planners.

It was felt that India would be caught on the wrong foot and suffer avoidable casualties if a neighbouring country decided to go in for chemical weapons.

The inter-services cell is understood to have been assigned the task of studying and making recommendations on nuclear and chemical-biological warfare, but for the moment attention is being given largely to chemical-biological weapons only.

Though the role of the cell is believed to be to look mainly into the defensive aspects of chemical warfare — to work out strategies of defence against a chemical attack — the ministry of defence is reluctant to comment on it.

A spokesman refused to confirm or deny the existence of the cell after pondering over the query for about a fortnight.

The reluctance to comment is understandable due to the "stigma" attached to the use or research into chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

The cell is believed to have been asked to study the effect of various gases under the climate conditions prevailing in the Indian sub-continent.

It has also been directed to consider the efficiency of the range of decontamination kits, chemical detectors, and protective gear available in the world market.

Efforts Urged To Curb Tamil Guerrilla Acts

BK301415 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Oct 86 P 8

[Editorial: "No End in Sight"]

[Text] The likelihood of special American help to Sri Lanka to combat terrorism must be blamed on the intransigence to Tamil guerrillas who rejected President Jayewardene's conditional offer of autonomy even without bothering to examine precisely what he had in mind. What is more surprising is that the Tamil United Liberation Front, which was expected to take a responsible view of the stalemate, should still insist that the island's Northern and Eastern provinces should be merged, refusing even to consider the Government's suggestion that a commission be set up to adjudicate on provincial boundaries. Mr Amirthalingam's dilemma is not, of course, to be minimized: since he has been virtually isolated in Sri Lanka's Tamil majority areas, he dare not make concessions that might provoke an immediate denunciation by the militant organizations. But the very fact that it agreed to enter into negotiations in Colombo encouraged the hope that the TULF was at last prepared to stake its prestige on a just compromise.

That the delegates were unable to visit their base in Jaffna, which is now controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, must also have been a sobering experience; not surprisingly, they were in no hurry to get in touch with the militants after returning to Madras. At the same time, however, the renewed TULF demand that even the Sinhalese majority districts of Eastern province should be included in the Tamil area flies in the face of reason and can only be intended as a sop to the extremists. In view of the latter's intransigence, it is bound to be asked whether a negotiated settlement is at all in the cards. There is little point in the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front denouncing President Jayewardene as "racist" or exalting its own campaign as a "just and legitimate fight" against oppression if specific grievances are not even to be discussed. There is no doubt that Sri Lanka Tamils have always suffered from grave disadvantages, or that successive governments in Colombo have been biased in favour of Sinhalese Buddhists. But the answer to the problem is not to try to create a weak and vulnerable breakaway state: the answer lies in forcing President Jayewardene to grant equal citizenship rights to all and that measure of local autonomy

to the minority that is necessary to protect its identity and interests.

The Tamil cause has, in fact, lost much of its validity at the hands of the guerrillas who have usurped the mantle of the TULF. What is even more to be deplored is that the former's secessionist aims and violent methods have played right into the hands of a cynically calculating Government that did everything in its power in the early stages to destroy the TULF's authority. As it has evolved, the situation arguably justifies the State Department's decision to include Sri Lanka in the list of countries that qualify for aid under Section 571 of the Foreign Assistance Act which deals with terrorism. But any closer military connection between the two countries would naturally be to the detriment of regional stability, and India has good reason to express concern at this potentially dangerous development. But it cannot in all fairness do so without making far more strenuous efforts to curb guerrilla activity and reinforce the TULF's ability to negotiate an equitable solution. Conditions have moved so far from the original rights and wrongs of the case that there may be no alternative now to taking a realistic view of the threat of continued Tamil insurgency.

Commerce Minister Relieved of Portfolio

BK310155 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] It was officially announced in Karachi today that the federal minister for commerce, Mr Mohyuddin Baluch, has been relieved of his portfolio. He will continue to remain a federal minister.

Spokesman Comments on Indian Naval Base

BK291710 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Pakistan has expressed concern over the odd logic presented by India in connection with the construction of a third Indian naval base, near southern Pakistan. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has neither protested nor made a hue and cry in this connection, as every country has the full right to build such bases on its territory. The spokesman said that the Indian prime minister, speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony, has given a traditional justification for naval preparations. He wants to convince the people of India and the world that India has to build the third naval base because Pakistan is going to acquire some ships. The spokesman said Pakistan has to decide now only what it should acquire. Of course, India has already acquired an aircraft carrier in addition to many (?speed boats) and submarines, and it has always claimed that it wants to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. The spokesman said India's neighbor Pakistan cannot be fooled by India's self-serving logic because India's resolutions cannot cover up its strategy to gain control over the sea from Aden to the Malacca Straits.

Radio Pakistan's diplomatic representative says the base under construction at Karwar near Goa will be the largest and most sophisticated, and it is presumed that 17 billion Indian rupees will be spent on it. [passage omitted]

The spokesman said Pakistan condemns terrorism and has enacted strict laws to prevent it. He said that the government has already announced this law, under which action will be taken without delay or hindrance in connection with the hijack of the Pan American plane. [passage omitted]

The spokesman told the newsmen that the pilot of the Afghan Air Force plane who defected to Pakistan with an Afghan MiG 21 will remain in Pakistan as long as the civil war continues in Afghanistan. This action is in accordance with recognized international law, which Pakistan will implement. In reply to a question, the spokesman said that the Afghan airman will be given political asylum as it has been given to others.

'Miscreants' Arrested for Violence in Quetta

BK310249 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Text] Some miscreants set fire to a truck and a car in the area B of the Quetta District yesterday. A press note issued in Quetta last night says that the law enforcement agencies reached the spot and arrested six persons. The investigations are continuing and more arrests are expected. The press note says that five persons have been arrested in connection with the incident that took place on Wednesday [29 October]. Twenty-five other people have been arrested on charges of violating laws and causing damage to government property. The law enforcement agencies also seized a Kalashnikov rifle, three 7 mm rifles, and ammunition.

MUSLIM on Outcome of Weinberger Visit

BK300729 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
30 Oct 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Visitor From Washington"]

[Text] The U.S. Defence Secretary, Caspar Weinberger, has concluded what officials from both countries have termed as a "successful" visit. Arriving in Islamabad via New Delhi, he had discussions with the Pakistani leadership and certified to the democratic nature of the current political arrangement. There was also a public conformity in the views of the two sides on Afghanistan with both dismissing the limited Soviet troops withdrawal as a "ruse". However, beyond the verbiage of mutual expressions of support, little is known of the substance of the talks particularly in areas vital to our national interest. There was hardly any reference to our nuclear programme, always a sore point in Washington, or our concern regarding the threat from India (discounted by Weinberger), and the U.S. response should the Soviets attempt an incursion into Pakistan as well as the supply of new weaponry. Similarly, the nature of the military relationship, given the context of heightened tensions in the Iran-Iraq War, have been kept away from public view. The presence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Central Command, General Crist, underlines the fact that the United States views its Pakistan connection in the broader regional framework.

While no apparent decision was taken on U.S. willingness to supply the more advanced version of the F-16 aircraft, discussions did take place on the possibility of stationing AWACS surveillance planes. Thankfully, the President ruled out the option of deploying U.S.-manned AWACS since this would violate Pakistan's non-aligned status. Additionally, such a move could seriously offend Pakistani public opinion sensibilities. The visit has, however, failed to answer pertinent questions relating to our national security.

What price does the United States expect Pakistan to pay in return for the continued "special relationship?" Are we expected to scuttle our nuclear programme, acquiesce to a sham "normalisation" with India, wink at any U.S. contingency plans against Iran, or agree to continued postponement of a political settlement in Afghanistan? In any case, Washington's woo-India policy cannot be viewed with satisfaction in Islamabad notwithstanding public professions to the contrary. Mr Weinberger, during his Islamabad Press conference, also skillfully managed to evade some vital issues such as the operational nature of America's oft-repeated "commitment" to Pakistan or comment on reports in the U.S. media indicating our acceptance of direct CIA covert operations in neighbouring Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.

While it makes sense for countries to seek all avenues that may enhance their security, this should not be done at the expense of the national interest. Our policy-makers need to realise that basically the Pakistan-American relationship is a tactical one, which relates to U.S. interests in our country by virtue of the 1979 events in Iran and Afghanistan. If, despite the perceived "special relationship" with Pakistan, the United States is actively seeking new openings and exploring new options in India, there is no reason for us to put all our eggs in the American basket. Such a shortsighted approach would be detrimental to Pakistan's national interest. For its part, Pakistan should concurrently explore an opening to Moscow, both for the purpose of seeking a negotiated compromise on Afghanistan and to ensure that an Indo-Soviet axis does not lock us in a nutcracker situation. To date, Americans have not explicitly stated what they would specifically do for Pakistan in such an eventuality.

SRI LANKA

Air Force Chief in PRC To Buy Aircraft

BK311133 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 31 (AFP) — The commander of the Sri Lankan Air Force is currently in China to buy aircraft to bolster the Armed Forces in the fight against Tamil separatists, highly reliable sources said Friday.

Air Marshal Walter Fernando left for Peking, Wednesday, to negotiate the purchase of twin-engined, turbo-prop Y-12 aircraft used for ferrying troops and cargo, one source said. Sri Lanka is expected to buy at least three of the planes at a cost of one million dollars each, the source added. "We are getting them fairly cheap," a highly-placed source said.

Sri Lanka's small Air Force has had to be bolstered in recent months with helicopters and transport planes after Tamil separatists started mining and destroying roads and railway bridges in an effort to halt the movement of troops and supplies, sources said.

Western countries, under pressure from Tamil groups, are not selling arms to Sri Lanka and it has had to look elsewhere for supplies, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Minister on Mortar Fire Between Hospital, Fort

BK301149 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1110 GMT 30 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" item — all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 30 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lanka Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali said today that from the number of reports made by foreign correspondents who were within the Jaffna Fort when mortar fire was exchanged: It was clear the terrorists had fired from the hospital premises without any provocation from the security forces. Mr Athulathmudali was speaking to a delegation from the Government Medical Officers Association [GMOA], a government communique issued by the by the Media Centre in Colombo states:

"The hon. minister of national security met a delegation of the Government Medical Officers Association today 30 October 1986 in connection with the frequent mortar attacks around the vicinity of the Jaffna Hospital area thus endangering the hospital buildings, patients, and other staff. The GMOA representatives further brought to the notice of the hon. minister that mortars were launched from the direction of the fort toward the hospital without any provocation from the terrorists and expressed the fear that in such situations there was risk to life and property in that some of them could be caught in the cross fire.

The GMOA suggested that in order to prevent such occurrances it would be adviceable [as received] to withdraw the Army personnel and the camp to another location.

The hon. minister assured the delegation that the security forces had never in the past nor would in the future launch mortar fire without extreme provocation by the terrorists to any part outside the Jaffna Fort. He further explained that from the number of reports made by many foreign correspondents who were within the Jaffna Fort when mortar fire was exchanged it was clear that mortar had been fired by the terrorists from the hospital premises among other locations into the fort without any provocation from the security forces and therefore the solution to the problem rests with the terrorists who should not use the hospital grounds or its vicinity if they wish to fire mortars at the fort.

The hon. minister requested the delegation that if the GMOA so desires arrangements could be made for some of the medical staff of the Jaffna Hospital to reside within the fort area in order to ascertain for themselves whether mortar attacks are not originated by the terrorists from within the vicinity of the hospital".

'Counterterrorist' Units Formed in Jaffna

BK311039 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1028 GMT 31 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 31 (LANKA PUWATH) — As the battle between rival separatist terrorist gangs, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Peoples Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), continued into its second day in Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka, reports reaching LANKA PUWATH today from Jaffna stated that for the first time armed counter-terrorist units were being established with the support of influential sections of the Jaffna community who wanted to eliminate terrorism.

Jaffna residents told LANKA PUWATH that the large majority of the people of the northern peninsula were now totally committed to a peaceful settlement of the ethnic problem. They were for a united Sri Lanka and were planning to rise en masse against the Velupillai Prabhakaran led LTTE which has reportedly made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) as from January 1, 1987. They said that citizens of Jaffna were organising themselves to resist all attempts by the LTTE to extort money through illegal levies.

Meanwhile, official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the battle which commenced yesterday between the LTTE led by Prabhakaran and PLOTE led by Uma Maheswaran was sparked off by LTTE terrorists assaulting PLOTE guards in the vicinity of Jaffna Fort and forcibly removing their weapons.

The sources said that heightened vigilance by the Sri Lankan Navy patrolling the Palk Strait on Sri Lanka's northern seas had resulted in the LTTE being unable to smuggle arms into Sri Lanka. The ferrying of arms across the Palk Strait had been so severely curtailed that three terrorist frogmen had made an abortive attempt to mine the seabed in Sri Lanka's northern waters in the early hours of the morning. But Sri Lankan naval patrol boats equipped with sophisticated electronic equipment detected the frogmen and killed them with depth charges. The

LTTE leadership in Madras had ordered its cadres in Jaffna to attack other terrorist groups and capture their arms.

Meanwhile, the Media Centre in Colombo reported today that, the Jaffna peninsula including the town and its outskirts were rocked by fighting between the LTTE and the PLOTE groups. The PLOTE group is resisting the LTTE demand for a surrender.

As a result from the 30th the whole of Jaffna has witnessed sporadic firing and throwing of grenades at one another by the LTTE and the PLOTE. Many civilians are believed to be injured and people are staying indoors. A PLOTE spokesman has meanwhile said yesterday in Madras a number of its members have been 'arrested' by the LTTE and their arms seized, according to media reports reaching LANKA PUWATH.

'Terrorists' Fire on Point Pedro Army Camp
BK311015 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1003 GMT 31 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 31 (LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists fired mortars at the Point Pedro Army Camp in northern Sri Lanka, the south and west of the camp, last Wednesday [29 October], the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH. Troops returned fire and the terrorists field. There were blood stains near the terrorist mortar firing locations which indicated terrorist casualties.

At Velvettithurai, the same day, troops destroyed a terrorist bunker erected in the scrubland, 1000 yards west of the camp.

Khamene'i Lauds Montazeri in Friday Prayers

LD311208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Text] Central News Unit correspondents report that political-worshipping Friday prayer ceremonies were held in various parts of the country today. This Muhammadan ritual was also held at Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares with the extensive participation of the people under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i.

In his prayer sermons the Friday imam of Tehran referred to the coming anniversary of 4 November 1979 [date of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran]. He said: Our problem with the United States is not a temporary one. This arrogant superpower's enmity demonstrated over long years is not something that could be eradicated from our people's memory within a few years. Thus, we shall never come to terms with the United States' arrogant and bullying policy.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council then turned to the political and military dimensions of the Fath offensive and said: With their military hardware and intensive fire our forces penetrated 150 km inside enemy territory, taking him by surprise by inflicting heavy and irreparable losses on him. That offensive was unprecedented in the annals of war in recent decades. The offensive is of notable importance to those knowledgeable in military matters. The Fath offensive and the power of Islam's combatants demonstrated the fact that our forces have the ability to strike at Saddam and the Zionist Iraqi regime anywhere. From the political standpoint it meant that the Islamic Republic of Iran exercises influence in any part of the country where the Iraqi regime's influence is absent and that it can use the Iraqi regime's opponents to strike at Saddam. It is this very attraction of the Islamic Republic of Iran that has severely frightened global arrogance and made the ringleaders of arrogance fearful of the future of the war.

The president also referred to the various means used by satanical powers in weakening the Iranian people's morale. He said: With their false propaganda they have tried to convey to the people that there is a rift within the country's leadership. They attributed certain rumors to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, who has always enjoyed and still enjoys the particular respect of the leader of the revolution. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i added: The day the Assembly of Experts decisively elected Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as the successor to the leadership, the Muslim/Iranian people welcomed it. By contrast, the ringleaders of global arrogance lost hope, for they had pinned their hopes on what would follow after the leader of the revolution. With this continuity, disappointment entered their black hearts.

The Friday imam of Tehran then paid tribute to and praised Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's personality in terms of his scholarship, revolutionary character, moral standing, and piety — something that is stressed and confirmed by superior ulema, professors, seminary scholars, and state officials. He said: This noble man is our revolution's treasure. After the imam the nation's hopes are pinned on him. For this reason, colonialism tried to tarnish the revolution's shining and suffering edifice. Fortunately, that was thwarted.

Concluding the sermons, the president stressed: The enemy's retreat on all fronts is caused solely by the Iranian people's power and fearlessness and the decisiveness of the combatants of Islam — something which is going to settle the issue of the corrupt Iraqi regime for the whole region.

Foreign Ministry on Kuwaiti Plane Incident

LD301618 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 30, IRNA — The attempted Iraqi air raid on the plane carrying the Kuwaiti emir's special envoy Wednesday, belies Baghdad's "concern for protecting our regional Arab allies", said a Foreign Ministry spokesman Thursday.

The spokesman said the incident against one of its own financial backers proves that the Iraqi regime will not hesitate to commit any treason in order to achieve its evil goals.

The Kuwait Airlines plane was carrying Kuwait's special envoy 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Atiqi to Tehran from Damascus Wednesday, and was chased by Iraqi fighter planes over the Iran-Turkey frontier and forced to land at a spot in the Soviet Union.

Al-'Atiqi was carrying an invitation for President 'Ali Khamene'i from Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jabir Ahmad al-Sabah, to attend the forthcoming summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The Foreign Ministry spokesman urged international circles and all countries especially Kuwait to condemn the Iraqi regime for its aggression.

Some of Iraq's earlier violations in scant respect to international conventions include the downing of an Algerian plane in 1981 which resulted in the death of Algerian Foreign Minister Ben Yahia.

Shooting down of an Iranian airliner in Khuzestan, threatening a plane carrying Turkish officials on the Ankara-Tehran route, and the hijacking of an Iranian airliner over Kuwait's air space to Baghdad are some of the other terrorist achievements of the Iraqi regime which have regretfully met with stark silence by international circles.

ICAO Called On To Investigate

LD301816 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Tehran, Oct 30, IRNA — Iran's civil aviation organization released a statement here Thursday condemning Wednesday's chasing of the plane carrying Kuwaiti emir's special envoy 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Atiqi by Iraqi jet fighters.

The statement called on the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to hold an investigation into the issue and condemn the violator in order to ensure the safety of international air traffic. [passage omitted]

Velayati on Machel Successor; Kuwaiti Plane

LD311002 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 31, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation returned home Thursday after attending funeral ceremony of the late Mozambican President Samora Machel in that country.

Velayati, who headed the Iranian delegation accompanied by special Presidential Advisor Mostafa Mir Salim, arrived in the Mozambican capital Maputo carrying President 'Ali Khamene'i's message for ranking officials of the host country.

Following his return here, Velayati said that the participation of 80 high-level delegations from other countries at the funeral ceremony of the late President Machel showed his distinguished personality at the world scene. He added that the presence of leaders of Frontline countries at the ceremony was quite considerable.

Velayati noted that the discipline governing the funeral ceremony proved that Mozambique would continue its struggle until restoration of justice in Africa.

Talking about the probable successor of the late President Machel, he quoted some informed political sources and Frontline leaders as saying that Marcelino dos Santos, the second man of Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), and Foreign Minister Joaquim Alberto Chissano are being mentioned for the purpose.

Commenting on the chasing of the plane carrying Kuwaiti envoy 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Atiqi on a Damascus-Tehran flight by Iraqi war planes on Wednesday, Velayati noted "This act proved to the world once again that the Iraqi rulers do not respect none of the international regulations. He added that the regional countries and responsible world bodies did not unfortunately take any decisive position vis-a-vis the Baghdad's downing of the plane carrying the late Algerian Foreign Minister Ben Yahia in 1981. Considering this non-taking of any firm action by the authorities concerned, such accidents were predictable, he said.

The Iranian foreign minister further said this act of the Iraqi rulers once again proved that the Islamic Republic is right to say that such a regime does not deserve to rule over the oppressed nation of Iraq.

Tehran: Plane Said Downed by Kuwait 'Iraqi'

LD311114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Excerpts] [Passage indistinct] (?Kuwait has reported shooting down an unidentified aircraft over its territory.) It is said that after firing antiaircraft missiles towards the plane, it vanished from Kuwait's radar screen. A Kuwaiti official did not reveal the identify of the aircraft and added that it probably crashed. However, other Kuwaiti sources have said that the aircraft was probably a jet fighter belonging to Iran. During the past 6 years of the Iran-Iraq war, the Kuwaiti Government has given political and financial support to the Baghdad regime and Iran's rulers have repeatedly attacked this policy by Kuwait.

Such claims are raised at a time when the Kuwaiti Government, for certain reasons, is refraining from giving further information on the fate of the downed plane and its identity. Of course, it is not far-fetched to think that the Kuwaiti claim is totally false and that there has been no aircraft at all. By announcing this news, they perhaps intend only to show their capability of defending their oil installations by missile systems. Bearing in mind that there is a strong possibility of this being true, observers believe that the intruding aircraft was an Iraqi fighter. Similar events during the early years of the imposed war substantiate this claim.

In 1982, an intruding plane was downed in Kuwaiti airspace. Following the incident, the Kuwaitis and the Western propagandists claimed that it was an Iranian plane. However, when the tide washed some parts ashore along the Kuwaiti coasts, it became clear that the downed plane was an Iraqi aircraft.

This time also, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the downed plane belonged to Iraq. When, 2 nights ago, the aggressive Iraqi jet fighters attacked the plane carrying the envoy of the amir of Kuwait and forced it to land in Yerevan, in Soviet Armenia, this claim was proved. International forums and governments should respond decisively against the Iraqi regime's violation of countries' airspace. But foreign radios are only lying in wait to find false and incomplete reports with which to resume their poisonous propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is no wonder that they are trying to blame Iran for flying objects moving toward Kuwaiti oil installations. [passage omitted on Israel radio blaming Iran]

The Kuwaiti accident, once again, exposes the true nature of these foreign radios. During the past few days, these radios, without any proof and documentation, have been broadcasting countless lies and have totally disgraced themselves. The War Information Headquarters, in a statement, blamed the Kuwaiti Government for its cover-up and denied any involvement by the Islamic Republic Air Force in violating Kuwaiti airspace. [passage omitted]

ILO Alerted on 'Resumption' of Iraqi Bombings

NC310646 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Text] The Labor and Social Affairs Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly has sent a letter to ILO Director General Francis Blanchard on the recent bombings of industrial-labor centers in Bakhtaran and Eslamshahr by the warmongering Iraqi regime.

According to the assembly's Public Relations Office, the letter refers to the resumption of bombings of the industrial-labor centers of our country, stating: Your duty as ILO director general dictates that you work to ensure the well-being of our country's manpower and labor force. You must break your prolonged silence and force the arbitrary Iraqi regime to stop bombing civilian production and industrial centers, especially during working hours.

Majlis Speaker Details 'New War Strategy'

LD301915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council, and the commanders of the Basij of the Deprived of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps today reviewed the project for the dispatch of 100,000 men of the 20 million-strong Army to the battlefronts of war, under the title: "Muhammad's Soldiers During the Basij of the Deprived Week" [beginning 26 November].

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council, in the course of some remarks during this ceremony, described the developments of the imposed war following the great victory of the combatants of Islam in the Val-Fajr 8 operations, stating: Following these operations the officials in charge of the war reached the conclusion that instead of utilizing diverse resources on an ad-hoc basis, it is better to prepare for a concentrated program to carry out an extensive and destiny-making offensive, and it is necessary to carry out more extensive and sustained operations. This has become the new war strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He then referred to various facilities and resources needed to implement this important project based on the new war strategy, such as manpower, organization, budget, resources, and training. He then enumerated the successes achieved after the formulation of the new war strategy in various fields. In connection with solving the problem of manpower, he referred to the people's great movements and the great development that has emerged in this area. He considered the project for the dispatch of 100,000 combatants of Islam to the battlefronts under the title:"Muhammad's Soldiers During the Basij of the Deprived Week" to be a great and decisive movement.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: During the length of the imposed war, despite losses experienced by us in financial and human terms, we have achieved much success in raising and moulding our youth. During the time of the war, the world's attention has been drawn toward Iran, and our country is today stabilized in the form of a strong Islamic and revolutionary bastion. The huge movements of the people and their steadfastness and support for the continuation of the war and the roaring rush of the young to the battlefronts have all been effective in creating doubts and uncertainties in the minds of neighbors and supporters of Iraq.

Apart from the results future operations will bring, the project for the dispatch of 100,000 men to the fronts, at a time when we already have inumerable equipped forces at the fronts in a state of preparedness, will have important results of its own and will certainly greatly weaken the morale and break the backs of the enemies. In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani analyzed and reviewed the outcome and consequences of the destiny-making movement on the battlefronts. He stated: The destiny-making movement means the achievement of great success and victory at the fronts, through which we will be able to impose our demands on the Iraqi regime. We must, by way of much effort and work at the fronts, reach a stage thath will enable us to say that we have determined the fate of the war. Our aim in all these movements is to reach our objectives through a huge movement, without shedding too much blood, and force Iraq's supporters to accept our just demands.

Rahmani, the official in charge of the Basij of the Deprived unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, also spoke at the ceremony. While explaining the programs of the Basij of the Deprived Week, which will be carried out from 26 November until 3 December, Rahmani announced the forms these ceremonies will take and the titles that will be given to the days of the Basij of the Deprived Week.

Turkey 'Advised' To Remain Neutral on War

LD301740 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 30, IRNA — Majlis Deputy Mostafa Qaderi advised the Turkish Government to maintain its neutrality in the Iraqi-imposed war, here Thursday.

Speaking at an open session of the Majlis, the deputy for Piranshah and Sar Dasht (both Kurdish cities) said that Turkey seems to be obviously collaborating with the Iraqi regime and its mercenaries, despite claims of being neutral in the imposed-war.

Qaderi also criticized Ankara for backing mercenaries of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) now based in Van Province in eastern Turkey.

The Turkish Government should not covet the Iraqi northeastern oil-rich province of Kirkuk, he said, noting that Iraq's natural resources belong to the Muslim Iraqi nation.

The Iranian people will never compromise with global arrogance which imposed a war on them and are determined to defend the Islamic Revolution to the last drop of their blood, he said.

KEYHAN Views Implications of UK-Syrian Break

PM301829 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 86 p 18-20

[Editorial: "A Political Assault Against Syria, and a Look at Middle East Developments"]

[Text] Nezar Hindawi, a Jordanian national, was sentenced to 45 years' imprisonment by an English court on Friday for attempting to blow up an Israeli airliner. He was charged with placing explosive material in the hand baggage of one of the airline's passengers — an Irish woman — who was traveling on the plane from London to Tel Aviv.

On the other hand, in a preplanned move the British Government accused Syria of having a hand in the affair and broke off diplomatic relations with Syria. The United States and Canada also withdrew their ambassadors from Damascus.

Syria denied the charges leveled by Britain, expelled the British ambassador from Damascus, and closed its air and sea ports to British planes and ships.

Early reports published on the airliner case at the time of the incident last April indicated that Israeli security officials sta-

tioned at Heathrow Airport discovered the explosive material and that the Irish passenger knew nothing of the affair. During preliminary questioning following his arrest Hindawi denied all charges and said that he was not involved in the case.

Later, during his trial, Hindawi said that he thought it possible that the Israeli espionage agency had had a hand in fabricating the incident. In his statements, Hindawi gave details on Mosad's motives for undertaking such an action. The eventual outcome of the case has shown that Israel and its allies gained several months' worth of propaganda by presenting an innocent appearance and by dirtying the image of the progressive countries in this region. More importantly, they once again insisted on the need to fight against "terrorism" and denigrated anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist struggles. Now they are pleased to witness the official isolation of forces and governments in the region, starting with Syria.

It seems that this action is being taken with two aims in mind. The first aim is to force progressive governments in the region — at this stage, Syria — to abandon their basic principles with regard to the disgraceful events in the Arab world such as Egypt's efforts to gain acceptance in the Arab fold, the Iraq-Iran war, the compromise-seeking attitudes by those who claim to be leaders of the Palestinians and, more importantly, the rushed negotiations and peace process between the Arabs and Israel. They want states such as Syria to create no more obstacles in these areas.

Second, if Syria refuses to abandon its principles, they want the Al-Asad government to be reduced to the level of an impotent and isolated government, rather than one which stands firm in the face of continued tricks by imperialism and Zionism in the region. They do not want Syria's cries to be heard.

In such circumstances a military blow, such as the U.S. strike against Libya or the start of a full-scale war by Israel against Syria, is easier and also politically cheaper. During recent months the Israelis have continued their military and political preparations for such an attack. The Israelis say very openly that a war between their regime and Syria is unavoidable.

Recently new Israeli Prime Minister Shamir was forced to deny remarks by a high-level Israeli general that "a war between Israel and Syria in the future is a certainty." This Israeli general had predicted the start of the war in 2 years' time.

All signs point to an Israeli preparation for a large-scale attack against Syria. Political calculations in the Middle East, especially the fact that Israel can position its troops on the Egyptian, Jordanian, and Iraqi [as published] frontiers, have added to the possibility of such an action.

What Israel and the United States are depending on as the ideal excuse to start a war against Syria, is a change in Israeli and Syrian positions. They do not want Syria to remain an Arab nation with international rights, favoring Arab principles. They want it to be an adventurist, illogical, bullying nation and a source of instability and insecurity in the region.

This is exactly the face that Israel has shown to the world for years, especially to the peoples of this area, and now the time has come to pass this mask on to Syria. This time Israel wants to attack Syria with the excuse of "a war for the security of the area," to avenge the Europeans and the Americans.

The chessboard of Middle East politics indicates nothing else. On the one hand Israel is no longer threatened from the North African side, and it is also free on its eastern borders. It has also safeguarded its own security along its northern border by deploying a permanent "South Lebanese Army." So it seems that the time has come to settle the score with Syria once and for all.

On the other hand, on the Arab front Syria has managed to enforce its steadfastness and has taken its leadership in hand, which in recent decades has traditionally been in the hands of Egypt. While reactionary governments such as Jordan and Morocco secretly and openly declare their love for Israel, while others wait for an opportunity to do the same to safeguard their own rule, and while invitations continue to flow toward Cairo for the Egyptians to take part in Arab League and ICO conferences, Syria really has no other choice.

In the area of Arab leadership there is room for either Egypt or Syria. Egypt has to stay out or else Syria has to concede its place to Egypt. In reality, there are two choices left for Syria: either to welcome Mubarak and Camp David to Damascus, or else to struggle against Egypt. It can either continue to support Iran, or else it can sign a treaty with Iraq. The future will show what road Syria will take.

In the meantime, the progressive governments of the region have no choice but to strongly support Syria. Support for Syria at this point in time is a determining factor, not only for the Arabs but also for the progressive forces of the region. If we put aside diplomatic politeness and if we look at the situation with realistic eyes, we realize that the mission to support Syria falls on the shoulders of only a few countries and anti-imperialist forces.

Sending messages and invitations to attend so-called "Arab" meetings is no remedy. Today the Arab world is no longer playing with hidden cards. All the cards are on the table. Of course, they still cut off ties with the Ivory Coast or some other small country in a far-off corner of Africa or Latin America for establishing diplomatic ties with Israel or for moving its embassy to Jerusalem, yet Egypt still flies its flag in Tel Aviv. Israel has an embassy in Cairo, and the wail of "improved ties" between Israel and Egypt fills the world's ears, yet Egypt is still invited to Arab nations and they ask the Egyptians to come and fill in their position alongside their "Arab brothers."

There is no hope for the Arab League or the ICO. The progressive governments and forces of the region have to find their own solutions and take action themselves. If these governments can secure the backing of a couple of countries like Algeria, they will be successful. Otherwise it would be naive to pin their hopes on the likes of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, because those governments see their own continued existence only through the weakening and destruction of governments such as Syria's.

One cannot say very much about Britain, the United States, Canada, or other countries that have placed themselves in the opposite front. Their actions are predictable. One cannot expect much more of colonialist and imperialist ideologies. The reasons and motives of such governments are very clear and do not need lengthy analyses. The peoples of the region are not strangers to this situation either.

Iraq fires a missile at an Iranian passenger airliner while it is standing in a civilian airport. No European country shows any type of reaction and none of them issues a statement. The civil airliner carrying the Mozambican president is brought down and the U.S. and European governments remain silent. Passenger trains are hit in Iran and commercial oil tankers are hit in international waters and no one complains. Yet a Jordanian youth is arrested on charges of an "unsuccessful attempt" against an Israeli plane, and they turn that into a club and hit Syria with it.

They officially give money and arms to thugs in Africa and Latin America to fight against the lawful governments of Nicaragua, Angola, and Mozambique, yet they fall short of supporting the innocent people of Lebanon and condemn those who do.

This is the unchanging law that governs the world, and it seems that the victims of this law are the only ones who are able to break it.

'Unhealthy Atmosphere' Over Shortages Viewed
PM301811 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Oct 86 p 19

[Editorial: "The Silence of Officials and the Increasing Rumors: Two Faces of the Same Coin."]

[Excerpts] Last week and this week sporadic rumors and false information have been going around concerning gasoline, bread, and other issues. These are occurring as the natural consequence of vague and changing economic and social policies and the lack of explicitness among the country's executive officials in talking about issues and problems. This then develops into the psychological warfare launched by Western news sources, the false propaganda machines linked to world imperialism, and internal counterrevolutionary circles against the Muslim people of Iran.

With the government announcement of a new economic program following the sharp drop in oil prices and currency and liquidity shortages, various and considerable changes occurred in the country's economic policies. This financial limitation, due to the fall in oil prices and the continuation of the war, could have been used to achieve a revolutionary strategy to change the foundations of the country's economy and to achieve a new standard for growth and development as well as safeguarding Islamic justice.

There is no doubt that one of imperialism's primary aims in the conspiracy to lower oil prices was to create economic problems for nonaligned and independent oil-producing nations such as Iran and to cause chaos in the economies of OPEC nations as a group. From the beginning of this development, political and economic analysts and other sympathetic people warned that the oil price fall could prove a double-edged knife — acting for or against the interests of the Islamic Revolution and the dedicated Muslim people of this country. They said that this development should be used to further the revolution's aims and that the government should not cut down on its programs aimed at helping the downtrodden masses.

The main purpose of the government's move in the framework of what has been called the "new economic package" is, of course, satisfactory as long as it guarantees a decrease in imports and less dependence on capitalist markets. But other aspects of this executive policy, which would lower welfare programs by reason of financial and currency limitations, undoubtedly deserve a negative evaluation.

This negative evaluation becomes more understandable when we consider the fact that the collective welfare policies in this country started at a time when the need for them was absolute. However, the conditions that created these needs continue with full force.

The wartime economic conditions, continued and widespread unemployment, increasing inflation, limitations on and falls in production and in the country's economic production capacity, have lowered the poor people's purchasing power, and if this situation continues for long it will cause the total destruction of the middle class and the creation of a poor majority and a small minority with fantastic amounts of wealth.

Under such conditions, when our people need unity more than ever before and when dissension and mistrust can cause the collapse of many of the fundamental and necessary political foundations, it is unacceptable for officials to follow a policy of limiting information and not allowing the people to know the truth. The Iranian people have shown their readiness to accept any limitations and any necessary shortages on the path of strengthening the revolution and its values. [passage omitted]

Having the support of this heroic nation, the question weighs heavily on the mind as to why the country's officials are scared to tell the truth? This fear and this pursuit of policy of silence and of not telling the people about shortages and problems will result in a gradual growth of mistrust between the people and the officials.

Under conditions when people feel the results of the limitations and economic problems in the form of difficulties and increasing pressures on their family life, on themselves, and on their society, and when they are witnessing various economic changes, what benefit can derive from presenting a false picture of the country's economic situation?

The Central Bank does not announce the wholesale index and, with ration coupons being cancelled, there is not enough meat for distribution. We are on the threshhold of winter, and there is no sign or indication of a satisfactory distribution of necessary fuels such as fuel oil, kerosene, and gas and there are no explanations given with regard to these problems. All these things point to a fear of telling the people the truth. Under these circumstances, the press has come to face a series of information limitations when trying to answer the people's questions with regard to these issues. The public relations departments of the finance-related

ministries have placed the press and the mass media under a news boycott, in addition to the limits placed on the press due to the present situation of the country. Many of those who like to impose limitations and who pretend to be "responsible" do not even publish ordinary news that is nothing "special."

All these conditions have created a poisonous and unhealthy atmosphere in our society, and without a doubt the only people who will benefit from this are the counterrevolutionary circles and supporters of imperialism. This poisonous atmosphere has created a psychological war against a people whose capacity and whose spiritual and economic powers are not limitless. One example of this is the recent rumor about bread rationing.

Although the same information limitations and lack of frank talk have forced us to deny this rumor exclusively through official statements, the present conditions and the wheat production situation in the current year make it unlikely that rationing will be implemented.

At present, as we approach the winter, the lack of official statements about the fuel situation or the ability to supply essential goods could create the necessary conditions for reactionary elements and those linked to imperialism to spread lies and rumors. At such times the country's officials and those who are sympathetic to us as well as the press have to fight against this poisonous atmosphere and show a light at the end of the tunnel.

On the other hand, the government has to step up its support for the poor by implementing revolutionary policies and by combatting the looting and the vast profit-making by capitalists. This could win the people's confidence and safeguard the government's prestige and honor.

Spokesman Denies Iraqi Claim of Downed Plane

LD311434 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 31, IRNA — Spokesman of the War Information Headquarters categorically refuted Friday Iraqi claims that it had downed an Iranian F-4 fighter on Thursday.

The spokesman said that Iranian jet fighters bombed Iraqi Al-Komeit garrison in Al-'Amarah Province Thursday and returned safely to bases after carrying out their mission.

He advised Iraq to show the wreckage and pilot of the plane on television if its claim is true.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Planes Bomb Gatvand

LD301438 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct 30, IRNA — Four civilians were martyred and 15 others wounded when intruding Iraqi warplanes bombed Gatvand township, north of Shoushtar [name as received] in Khuzestan Province, at 13:00 hours (09:30 GMT) Thursday.

Enemy warplanes also bombed residential areas in Bakhtaran Thursday morning causing several civilian casualties. Thursday's Iraqi attacks followed the successful Iranian Fath-Two offensive Wednesday night on Dukan Dam and power station, deep inside Iraq.

Communique No 2,640

LD301615 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA — Iraq's Al-Komeit garrison in the southwestern province of Al-Amarah was heavily bombed by Iranian jet fighters at 11:00 hours local time (07:30 hours GMT) Thursday, said a military communique here.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,640 said that the fighters after inflicting substantial losses on Iraqi forces returned safely to bases.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said, heavily shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the western and southern fronts Wednesday killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying two vehicles. Parts of enemy positions were also devastated.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses in the southern fronts as a result of heavy shelling by Iranian artillery fire. Enemy engineering operations as well as movement of supply vehical columns were effectively checked, the communique said.

During exchange of artillery fire in the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts which raged more heavily in Qal'eh-Avizan, considerable casualties and losses were inflicted on Iraqi troops. Activities of enemy tanks and supply convoys were also disrupted in Sumar and Mehran regions.

In the northwestern fronts, several Iraqi vehicles were set ablaze in Hajj 'Umran area. Parts of enemy positions including a tank were also destroyed in Panjwin operational theater.

According to the communique, Iranian forces silenced Iraqi fire in operational theaters of Majnun Islands, Sharhani, and Pich-e Angizeh, and checked enemy engineering operations elsewhere in Jofeyr and across the Arvand River, in areas overlooking Khorramshahr.

Iraqi Economic Sites in Al-Kut Bombed

LD311001 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 31, IRNA — Air Force jet fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran bombarded the economic-industrial installations of the Iraqi city of Al-Kut, southeast of that country's capital Baghdad, at 03:40 GMT Friday.

Announcing the above Friday, the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces added that all the attacking planes returned to their base safely after inflicting unrepairable damage on the Iraqi criminals.

Basra Subjected to Retaliation

LD311045 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 31 Oct 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct 31, IRNA — Military garrisons and economic installations in the southern Iraqi province of Basra, in an area extending from the north of Al Qurnah to the east of Abu al-Khasib, have been subjected to heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants since Thursday noon. As a result of the shelling, dense smoke prevailing over the area has been observed from far distance.

The shelling is in retaliation for Iraqi bombardments of Iranian residential areas and industrial centres in Bakhtaran and Khuzestan Provinces causing many civilian casualties Wednesday and Thursday.

This constant artillery bombardment has set ablaze the fuel storage tanks of Al-Harithah power station, stores of a paper plant, and the petrochemical and railway installations of Basra.

Also, the tactical headquarters of Iraq's Third and Sixth Army Corps, in the east and northwest of Basra, have been hit by the Iranian artillery fire.

Meanwhile, a report reaching here from inside Iraq said that following the repeated warning of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) of the Islamic Republic's Supreme Defence Council, a large number of residents of Basra Province have left their homes for the holy city of Al-Najaf and Al-Nasiriyah.